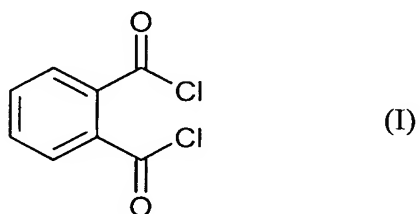


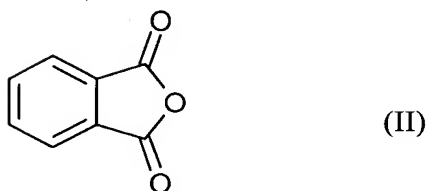
What is claimed is:

1. A process for preparing phthaloyl chloride of the formula (I)



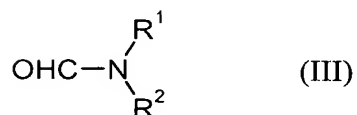
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in which phthalic anhydride of the formula (II)



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is reacted with phosgene in the presence of an N,N-dialkylformamide of the formula (III)



in which

R¹ and R² are each independently straight-chain or branched alkyl,

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and in the presence of an inert diluent at temperatures between 20°C and 150°C,

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characterized in that the amounts of phosgene and of the N,N-dialkylformamide of the formula (III) used are each independently metered in continuously or semicontinuously.

2. The process as claimed in claim 1 characterized in that the N,N-dialkylformamide of the formula (III) is metered in continuously.
- 5 3. The process as claimed in claim 1 characterized in that the N,N-dialkylformamide of the formula (III) is metered in semicontinuously.
4. The process as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the phosgene is metered in continuously.
- 10 5. The process as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the phosgene is metered in semicontinuously.